JUL 06 2007

7-9-07

July 5, 2007

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Shanto M Z Abedin;

References:
Application/Control Number: 10/680,530
Art Unit: 2136
First named inventor: Dryer, Joseph Ernest
Office communication of 04/10/2007

In the referenced office communication, Claims 1-11 of the application were initially rejected. Following is a quote of that office communication:

"Regarding Claim 1, it recites the limitation "the composite subdocuments". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim since it is not clear whether "the composite subdocuments" are implying to "multiple subdocuments in a single cover document" as stated earlier, or any other unrelated group of subdocuments. Furthermore, claim 1, recites the limitation "access to the subdocument" whereas it is not clear whether applicant implying access to one of the previously mentioned subdocuments, or any particular subdocument.

"Regarding claim 2-11, they are rejected because of their dependency on claim 1.

The original Claim 1 read as follows:

Claim 1
"A method of controlling the digital signature process to allow controlled creation, modification, signature generation and signature verification of multiple subdocuments in a single cover document, comprising the steps of: creating a protected cover document for the creation, display, and editing of the composite subdocuments and for controlling through the cover document access to the subdocuments for creation, editing, signature generation or signature verification; creating through a menu associated the cover document an access to the subdocument for edit and display of the subdocument in the cover document; creating through a menu associated with the cover document the transmission of a subdocument object to a signature-generation program to allow creation of a digital signature for each subdocument and for the verification of that digital signature; and providing in the cover document a display and/or storage of any digital signature created for a subdocument, together with the information required or useful to use the digital signature.